

REMARKS

In the above referenced Office Action the Examiner first objected to Claims 14-16, stating,

"Claims 14-16 alternatively refer to "bodysuit member" and "bodysuit" to refer to the same element. To keep terminology in the claims consistent, applicants should only use one of these names to describe this element.

In claims 14, line 8, replace 'permit' with --permits--.

Appropriate correction is required."

Claims 14-16 have been amended to address the Examiners objection and he is respectfully requested to withdraw his objection thereto.

The Examiner then rejected Claims 14-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Eriksson (US 5,152,757 A) in view of Lockwood et al. (US 6,685,68182).

In support of this rejection the Examiner stated, "Regarding claim 14, Eriksson teaches a device capable of both treating and promoting healing of damaged body tissue, said device comprising;

a bodysuit member (60) having each of a predetermined size and a predetermined shape, said bodysuit (60) having an outer surface facing atmosphere and an inner surface facing a body area of a person to be treated; and at least one fluid transfer means (88) sealingly engaged with said bodysuit space and disposed in fluid communication with a space located between said inner surface of said bodysuit and said damaged body tissue for allowing communication of at least one predetermined fluid medium to such space disposed between said inner surface of said bodysuit and such damaged body tissue thereby enabling such damaged body tissue (see figs. 9 & 15, below) (col. 20, lines 62-65; col. 21; lines 51-68) (abstract).

Eriksson does not expressly teach that the inner surface of the bodysuit member is textured.

Eriksson teaches a vacuum bandage that includes a wound-contacting layer (20) with a texture (28) which channel fluids (see fig. 16, below).

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to add the textured channels of Lockwood et al. to the system of Eriksson in order to provide fluid flow channels even in

portions of the system that are compressed by a wearer's bodyweight, so fluid can circulate.

Regarding claim 15, Eriksson teaches transparency (col. 2, line 34).

Regarding claim 16-18, Eriksson teaches multiple ports (88) (fig. 15).

Regarding claims 19-22, Eriksson teaches that the fluid is a liquid medication, painkiller or both (col. 6, lines 55-68)."

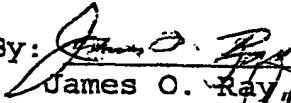
Applicant disagrees with the Examiner's conclusion that the channels in the device of Lockwood, et al are a texture which would provide sufficient circulation to the affected areas of a persons body. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw his rejection of Claims 14-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Eriksson (US 5,152,757 A) in view of Lockwood et al. (US 6,685,68182).

New Claim 23 has been added to cover a bodysuit member covering the entire body of a patient and is clearly not taught in the cited references.

In the event the Examiner has further difficulties with the allowance of the application, he is invited to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone at (412)380-0725 to resolve any remaining questions or issues

by interview and/or by Examiner's amendment as to any matter that will expedite the completion of the prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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